

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1.(currently amended): In a sampling and analysis member
2 which is used to assay for an analyte of interest in a sample
3 comprising a A medium with which member retains the analyte
4 ~~for retention of chemical species for use in a hand-held~~
5 ~~device~~ for the relatively rapid detection of the presence of
6 the an analyte of interest in the a sample, the improvement
7 which comprises as the medium wherein the medium is comprised
8 ~~of~~ a porous, non-fibrous absorbent polymeric material which
9 has an absorptive capacity between about 5 g water/g of
10 polymeric material to about 15 g water/g of polymeric
11 material, and a pore size between about 0.004 mm to about 1.2
12 mm.

1 2.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 1 ~~medium of claim 1~~, wherein the polymeric material has
3 a density of from about 0.05 g/cc to about 0.1 g/cc, and an
4 average pore size of from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, ~~a pore~~
5 ~~size range of from about 0.004 to about 1.2 mm, and an~~
6 ~~absorptive capacity of from about 5 g water/g of polymeric~~
7 ~~material to about 15 g water/g or polymeric material.~~

1 3.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 1 ~~medium of claim 1~~, wherein the polymeric material is
3 selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and
4 polyvinyl acetal.

1 4.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 1 ~~medium of claim 1~~, wherein the medium functions as a
3 swab for the sampling of the analyte of interest on a solid
4 surface.

1 5.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 3 medium of claim 3, wherein the polymeric material of
3 the sampling swab has a density of approximately 0.1 g/cc, an
4 average pore size of 0.2 mm, a pore size range of about 0.004
5 to about 0.4 mm, and an absorptive capacity of about 7 to
6 about 10 g water/g of polymeric material.

1 6.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 3 medium of claim 3, wherein the polymeric material has
3 medium is in a cylindrical shape.

1 7.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 6 swab of claim 6, wherein the polymeric material has
3 a height which is less than a diameter height of the
4 cylindrical swab is less than the diameter of the swab.

1 8.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 3 medium of claim 3, wherein at least a portion of a
3 surface of the polymeric material medium is covered with an
4 effective amount of an adhesive substance.

1 9.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 1 ~~medium of claim 1~~, wherein the medium functions as a
3 reagent disc for loading of a reactant system.

1 10.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 9 ~~medium of claim 9~~, wherein the polymeric material is
3 a reagent disc which has a density of about 0.05 g/cc; an
4 average pore size of from 0.9 to 1 mm; ~~a pore size range of~~
5 ~~about 0.2 mm to about 1.2 mm; and an absorptive capacity of~~
6 ~~approximately 15 g of water/g of polymeric material.~~

1 11.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 9 ~~medium of claim 9~~, wherein the reactant system has
3 been is loaded onto the reagent ~~reactant~~ disc by contacting
4 a solution of the reactant system in an appropriate solvent
5 with ~~onto~~ the polymeric material ~~of which the disc is~~
6 ~~comprised~~ and removing the solvent from the polymeric
7 material.

1 12.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 11 medium of claim 11, wherein the solvent has been is
3 removed from the polymeric material by a method selected from
4 the group consisting of evaporation, sublimation, freeze-
5 drying or lyophilization.

1 13.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 9 medium of claim 9, wherein the reactant system is
3 capable of undergoing a reaction with adenosine triphosphate
4 (ATP) to generate chemiluminescence as a product of the
5 reaction has been loaded onto the reagent disc.

1 14.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 9 medium of claim 9, wherein the reactant system
3 comprises comprising a luciferase/luciferin system has been
4 loaded onto the reagent disc.

1 15.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 14 medium of claim 14, wherein the reactant system
3 further comprises trehalose in an amount effective to
4 increase the luminescence emission by a factor of from about
5 25 to about 100%.

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1 16.(currently amended): The sampling and analysis member of
2 Claim 14 ~~medium of claim 14~~, wherein the reactant system
3 further comprises trehalose in an amount effective to
4 increase the luminescence emission by a factor of more than
5 100%.